

I am here to speak as a registered nurse who has a long history with Good Samaritan Medical Center. I worked on the building fund for Cardinal Cushing General Hospital as a teenager and was the first captain of the candy strippers. I then worked as a ward secretary and a nurse's aid while in nursing school. I started my career as an RN in 1974 at Cardinal Cushing and have been there ever since. I guess you could say that I have grown up at Good Samaritan.

We have seen many changes over the years. We have been through a merger, a fire and multiple administrations. This proposed acquisition by Cerberus is much needed for capital improvements which are necessary to improve the physical plant and to help our hospital to better serve the community we are so closely connected to, especially the new Emergency Department. However, I am hoping that Cerberus will continue to follow the present mission of the hospital to provide the highest quality care to all who enter our doors, regardless of race, creed, color or economic status. My fear is that if we abandon that mission in order to keep investors happy, then we will have failed as a major health care provider to the people of Brockton and all of the surrounding communities that we serve.

Given the current economic climate and the changing health care environment, I believe that "for profit" health care systems are inevitable. My main concern is the potential to place profit ahead of patients. To let the bottom line be the sole determination for decisions made in the future.

As an RN, presently working as a case manager, I have, on occasion had to make decisions that were not always the best for the profitability of the hospital but I knew that they were the best for my patients.

Because of the mission of the hospital I was generally supported in these decisions by administration because it was what was best for our patients. I hope that as long as I continue to work at Good Samaritan I will be able to make the best choices for my patients and their families even if that decision may not be the most profitable decision for the hospital.

My hope for the future is that Cerberus will continue this mission that I have worked under for the last 36 plus years.

Margie McLuskey
43 Pleasant Dr.
Bridgewater 02324